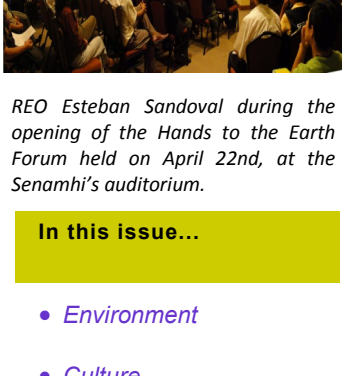


## SOUTH AMERICA ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND HEALTH NEWSLETTER

### American Embassy in Lima organizes a forum to celebrate Earth Day

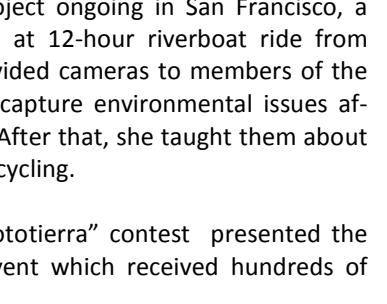
147<sup>th</sup> issue, April 26, 2010

On April 22nd, REO HUB and PAS held the “Hands to the Earth” Forum, with students from “Colegio Mayor Presidente del Perú.” This school, a new concept in high school education, congregates the best students country-wide attending the last years of high school, following an intensive preparation program to develop their potential.



REO Esteban Sandoval during the opening of the Hands to the Earth Forum held on April 22nd, at the Senamhi's auditorium.

After forum opening by SENAMHI Elizabeth Silvestre, REO Esteban Sandoval, and PAS Steve Ramirez, Diego Shoobridge, Director of the Community Environmental Management Program of the Peace Corps, gave a lecture about the effects of climate change on tropical glaciers, pollution of rivers by illegal mining, deforestation, and inadequate waste management.



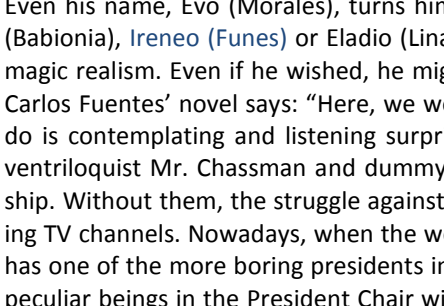
In addition, Amanda Garratt, a Fulbright Researcher, presented her “Fotovoz” Project ongoing in San Francisco, a jungle community located at 12-hour riverboat ride from Pucallpa, in Peru. She provided cameras to members of the community to graphically capture environmental issues affecting their way of living. After that, she taught them about waste management and recycling.

Last but not least, the “Fototierra” contest presented the contest finalists of this event which received hundreds of entries via internet.

This forum was webcasted to universities in Lima and the provinces.

Read more at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usembassyperu/sets/72157623910005432/show/>

### Bolivia / Uruguay: People demand emission reduction to industrialized countries



Coincidentally with Earth Day, summits on climate change being simultaneously developed in Bolivia and Uruguay, finished yesterday with a call to industrialized countries to engage more strongly in the fight against global warming and GHG reduction for 2020.

The People’s Conference on Climate Change and Mother Earth Rights celebrated in Tiquipaya (middle of Bolivia) approved the creation of a Climate Justice Tribunal, and recommended that, as far as this instance does not exist, social movements must suit rich countries before the International Court of Justice in La Hague.

Read more at [http://www.telegrafo.com.ec/mundo/noticia/archive/mundo/2010/04/23/Exigen-a-pa\\_ED00\\_ses-industrializados-reducir-emisiones.aspx](http://www.telegrafo.com.ec/mundo/noticia/archive/mundo/2010/04/23/Exigen-a-pa_ED00_ses-industrializados-reducir-emisiones.aspx)

### Evo says “avoid chickens”

By Eduardo Espina

Even his name, Evo (Morales), turns him into a literary character, from the lineage of Mauricio (Babionia), Ireneo (Funes) or Eladio (Linacero)<sup>1</sup>. His comments are an eloquent proof of the best magic realism. Even if he wished, he might never stop being a Latin American. The storyteller of Carlos Fuentes’ novel says: “Here, we were born; what can we do?” Here, the only thing we can do is contemplating and listening surprisedly. After Laurel and Hardy, Abbot and Costello, and ventriloquist Mr. Chassman and dummy Chirilota, we have Hugo and Evo. An essential partnership. Without them, the struggle against capitalism would not be amusing. We would live changing TV channels. Nowadays, when the world’s most powerful country –I do not know until when– has one of the more boring presidents in history (he is even beyond George W.), the presence of peculiar beings in the President Chair with no will to leave it leads us to believe that down here, in the Illogical South, everything is more amusing. Evo, who does not avoid to be quiet when he has the best chance, affirmed this week (I think the day before yesterday) that “eating chickens - I cite – cause “sex deviations in men, due to their female hormone content”. Oh my, how late we learn that! We, the carnivore lovers of feathered beings, who have spent the life filling our bodies with hormones that could turn us into ladies. I wonder the rest of the story according to Evo: the feminizing hormones were made in US labs with the sole purpose that the poor South American citizens ingest them through gallinaceous birds to, thus, transform us into dicky beings. Logic number two: eating chicken would turn us into hens. Do you mind an army made up by soldiers of that kind? The Empire, with its marines fed with burgers, could easily invade us, as the resistance would be minimal. A battalion of ladies. What a dilemma: to continue to be machos or to eat chicken. Logic number three: the more chickens the fewer eggs. Thanks Bolivia: We will owe Evo the low-price gas and the recovered masculinity.

<sup>1</sup> Mauricio Babilonia is a character from *Cien Años de Soledad* by Gabriel García Márquez; Iraceo Funes is the main character from *Funes, el memorioso* by Jorge Luis Borges; and Eladio Linacero is the main character from *El Pozo* by Juan Carlos Onetti.

Article published on *El Observador* on April 23, 2010.

### Brazil: Public audience will discuss denounces on sweetwater traffic

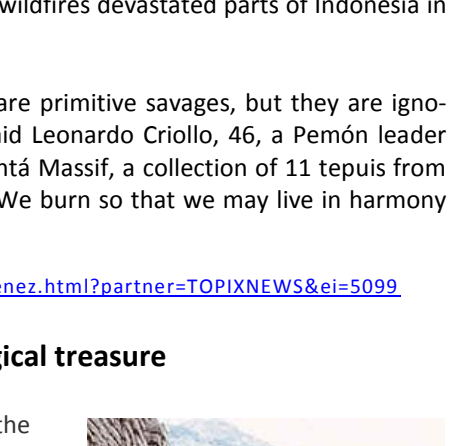
The Committee for the Amazon Rainforest, National Integration, and Regional Development is going to carry out a public audience to discuss the denounces on traffic of the Amazon sweetwater. The audience was approved this Wednesday April 14, (the date was not set up yet), and will count on the participation of representatives from the National Agency for Water, the Federal Police, and the Ministries of Defense and Environment.

The authors of this meeting request, congress representatives Lupericio Ramos (PMDB-AM) and Francisco Praciano (PT-AM), mentioned denounces on tank-ships refilling their vessels with water from Amazon rivers to be bottled in Europe, Middle-East and even China. “We need to clarify these denounces as until now no authority from the federal government has denied these news spread through specialized sites and journals” Lupecio Ramos pointed out. He advised that this felony has received the name of “hydropiracy”. Lupericio Ramos emphasized that the economic factor is the main advantage of the sweetwater traffic, because the treatment of one cubic meter of water would cost about R\$ 1,40 (=US\$0.80), while the expenditure of seawater desalination goes beyond R\$ 2,60 (=US\$1.48). Estimations affirm that each ship is supplied with 250 millions of liters of water. “In addition, high fees are charged in many countries to use surface waters, aquifers and river waters, particularly in Europe”, he concluded.

Read more at [http://www.frenteambientalista.org/not\\_detalle.asp?cod=2268](http://www.frenteambientalista.org/not_detalle.asp?cod=2268)

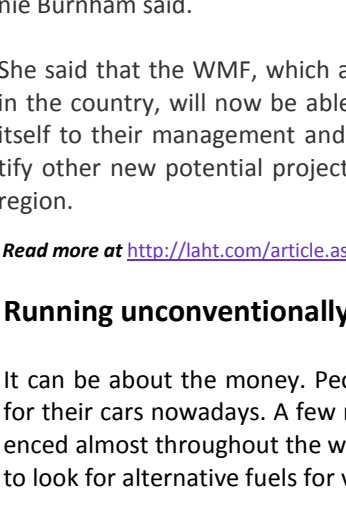
### In Venezuela’s Savanna, clash of science and fire

The mist-shrouded mountains rising out of the forest here form one of the world’s most beguiling frontiers of exploration and research, inspiring Arthur Conan Doyle’s 1912 fantasy novel “The Lost World” and teams of biologists who still mount expeditions to remote escarpments in hopes of finding species new to science.



Many Pemón, along with some of the scholars who study them, say that burning grassland and forest helps prevent grasses from building into biomass for much larger fires that could tear through the region.

But in the savannas below, the tendrils of smoke hanging over the landscape attest to a custom that has set off a fierce debate among scientists in Venezuela and beyond: the Pemón Indian tradition of repeatedly burning grassland and forest to hunt for animals and grow food. The drought that afflicted Venezuela this year is intensifying claims that the Pemón have unleashed a surge in fires that rains would normally extinguish. Some forestry specialists say the fires put the Gran Sabana, a region about the size of Ireland that includes the enigmatic tabletop mountains known as tepuis (pronounced tey-POO-ees), at risk of deforestation and species loss.



President Hugo Chávez’s government is already facing broad public ire over electricity shortages, and the state electricity company fears that the fires could diminish the forests that help gather and release water, and boost river sediments into the Guri, the hydroelectric complex that provides Venezuela with most of its electricity.

But many Pemón, along with some of the scholars who study them, say the fires help prevent grasses from building into biomass for much larger fires that could tear through the region, in the way vast wildfires devastated parts of Indonesia in 1997.

“Outsiders think we are primitive savages, but they are ignorant of our ways,” said Leonardo Criollo, 46, a Pemón leader whose village, Yunék, sits in the shadow of the Chimantá Massif, a collection of 11 tepuis from which waterfalls descend from mile-high rock walls. “We burn so that we may live in harmony with more falls

Read more at <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/23/world/americas/23venez.html?partner=TOPIXNEWS&ei=5099>

### Peru gets US\$1 million to preserve archeological treasure

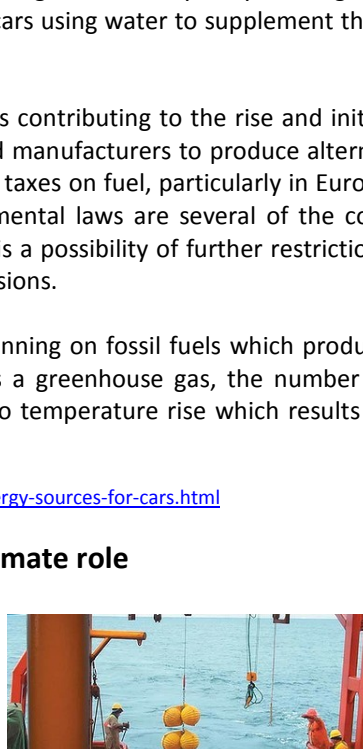
The World Monuments Fund announced Monday the donation of \$1 million to Peru for preservation of the Huaca de la Luna site, the WMF’s biggest-ever donation to a project in Latin America.

The grant coincided with the formation of a committee for conservation of Peru’s heritage sites under the leadership of Marcela Perez de Cuellar, the wife of former U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

“World Monuments Fund has been working in Peru for more than 10 years and we think this is the right time to establish a more formal presence,” WMF president Bonnie Burnham said.

She said that the WMF, which already has eight projects in the country, will now be able to more easily dedicate itself to their management and protection, and to identify other new potential projects in the country and the region.

Read more at <http://laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=354782&CategoryId=14095>



### Running unconventionally: Alternative energy sources for cars

It can be their nowadays. People are looking for alternative energy sources or alternative fuel for their cars nowaday. A few months ago, increasing prices of petroleum products were experienced almost throughout the world. With the increasing money spent on the pump, we are trying to look for alternative fuels for vehicles that can eventually lead us to bigger savings.

Cars or vehicles running on alternative fuel are generally running on fuel other than gasoline or diesel. Over the years, we have become witnesses on car running on electricity, a hybrid of gasoline and electric car, or even solar powered. There are even cars using water to supplement their gas through the water-to-gas technology.



There are several factors contributing to the rise and initiative of governments and manufacturers to produce alternative fuel vehicles. Heavy taxes on fuel, particularly in Europe and tightening environmental laws are several of the contributing factors. There is a possibility of further restrictions on greenhouse gas emissions.

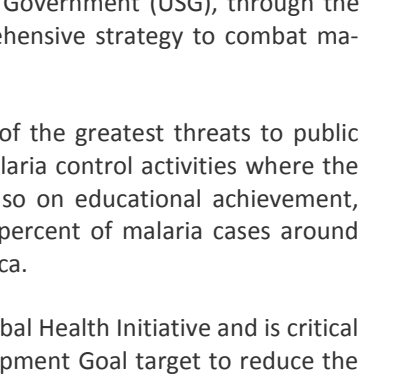
Since cars are mostly running on fossil fuels which produce carbon dioxide which is a greenhouse gas, the number of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is increasing. It leads to temperature rise which results to global warming and climate change.

Read more at <http://targetoil.com/running-unconventionally-alternative-energy-sources-for-cars.html>

### Mighty ocean current near Antarctica plays vital climate role

A mighty ocean current carrying about 40 times as much water as the world’s biggest river - the Amazon -Hyde has been discovered near Antarctica.

More than three kilometres below the surface, the near-freezing current, which has been studied by Australian and Japanese researchers, plays an important role in the climate system by transporting Antarctic water north to the Indian and Pacific Oceans.



Ocean monitoring equipment used to measure ocean currents.

Steve Rintoul, a CSIRO oceanographer and co-author of the study, said the body of water about 50 kilometres wide was moving surprisingly fast, at about 20 centimetres a second, on average. "It is the fastest mean speed we have measured at those depths," he said.

The researchers measured the current’s speed, temperature and salinity with instruments attached to eight moorings, which were anchored to the sea floor with old train wheels at depths of up to 4.5 kilometres.

Read more at <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/mighty-ocean-current-plays-vital-climate-role-20100426-tmzx.html>

### U.S releases six-year strategy to combat malaria globally

In conjunction with World Malaria Day, and in accordance with the requirements of the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Lantos-Hyde), the U.S. Government (USG), through the President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI), today released a comprehensive strategy to combat malaria globally.

For about half the world’s population, malaria remains one of the greatest threats to public health. Sub-Saharan Africa is the epicenter of the world’s malaria control activities where the ancient disease casts a shadow not only over health, but also on educational achievement, worker productivity, and economic development. About 85 percent of malaria cases around the world and 90 percent of deaths are estimated to be in Africa.

Malaria control is a core component of President Obama’s Global Health Initiative and is critical to USG efforts to help countries meet the Millennium Development Goal target to reduce the mortality in children under age five by two-thirds.

PMI, led by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, addresses the burden of malaria in high-continent through its efforts to reduce the burden of malaria. Since 2006 PMI has helped 15 high-burden countries in Africa rapidly scale up highly-effective malaria prevention and treatment interventions.

Over the initial four years of the initiative, there has been a dramatic scale-up of malaria prevention and treatment measures in 15 PMI-supported countries. Many of these countries have reported significant reductions in under-five mortality, and there is strong and growing evidence that malaria prevention and control are a major factor in these reductions.

Read more at [http://pr-usa.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=381634&Itemid=34](http://pr-usa.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=381634&Itemid=34)

### James Cameron: “I am going to handle a letter from Brazilian Indians to Obama”

Fifty-five year-old Canadian moviemaker James Cameron, director of “Titanic” and “Avatar”, who holds the all-time box-office record in the history of cinema to date, started a campaign against the Belo Monte plant, after visiting the Kayapo Indians in the Altamira region, North East of Pará. He took part in a meeting along with 80 leaders from Brazilian indigenous communities and received from them a letter that he intends to handle to Presidents Lula and Obama.

Cameron promoted a special exhibition of his film in New York, as part of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Rights of the United Nations. O Globo interviewed him in relation to his visits to Brazil and his research on Amazon tribes’ issues.

Read more at <http://oglobo.globo.com/economia/mat/2010/04/25/james-cameron-vou-levar-carta-dos-indios-obama-916427725.asp>

### REO Hub and ESTH Outreach

<b>May 3-7, 2010</b>	<b>LAC Economic Growth and Environment Strategic Planning Workshop - Panama City, Panama</b>
<b>May 7-8, 2010</b>	<b>First Meeting on Sustainable Architecture—Bogota, Colombia</b>
<b>May 10-12, 2010</b>	<b>XIX Annual Latin American Energy Conference, The La Jolla Conference - La Jolla, California</b>
<b>July 14-17, 2010</b>	<b>International Conference on Biodiversity Conservation in Trans-boundary Tropical Forests – Quito, Ecuador</b>
<b>July, 2010</b>	<b>Roundtable on Climate Change and Disaster Preparation (dates to be confirmed)</b>
<b>Ago 5-8, 2010</b>	<b>International Seminar on Science, organized by CEPRECYT and INIC-TEL-UNI – Lima, Peru</b>
<b>Ago 5-8, 2010</b>	<b>IX International Meeting on Science –Lima, Peru</b>

### U.S. Climate Change Bills

HR 2996

**Rep. Norman Dicks [D-WA6] – Dep. of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010**

Oct 30, 2009 – Became Public Law No: 111-88. Read about this law here: <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h111-2996>

**S. 1733**

**Sen. John Kerry [D-MA] – Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act.**

Sept 30, 2009 – Introduced (referred to Senate Environment and Public Works Committee)

Nov 5, 2009: Committee on Environment and Public Works. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.

Feb 2, 2010: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Track this bill here: <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=s111-1733>

**HR 2454**

**Rep. Henry Waxman [D-CA30] – American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009.**

May 15, 2009 – Introduced (referred to 15 different committees: <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h111-2454&tab=committees>

May 21, 2009 – Reported by committee (2 proposed amendments:

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h111-2454&tab=amendments>)

June 26, 2009 – Passed House. Bill now goes to Senate vote.

July 7, 2009 – Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 97. Track this bill here: <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h111-2454>

**The information contained herein was gathered from news sources from across the region, and the views expressed below do not necessarily reflect those of the Regional Environmental HUB Office or of our constituent posts.**

**Addressees interested in sharing any ESTH-related events of USG interest are welcome to do so. For questions or comments, please contact us at [quevedoa@state.gov](mailto:quevedoa@state.gov).**